The Chicago Tribune.

VOL XXII. CHICAGO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1868. NUMBER 1.

EUROPE.

The Eastern Complication.

The Situation Assuming a Serious Aspect.

Great Residents Ordered to Leave Turkish Territory.

Russia in Sympathy with the Government at Athens.

Progress of the Spanish Elections.

The Eastern Difficulty.

THE SITUATION GROWING SERIOUS.

LONDON, Dec. 22.

The financial despatch, dated Constantinople 1 last received, represents the situation as more serious than ever. The Sultan has extended to three weeks the time for the departure of the troops from Constantinople. The Emperor of Russia has authorized Greek vessels, probably four, carrying away the refugees, to enter the ports of Robert Parks, the Turkish Admiral, will receive men of war, in Monkey-g from where the Greek steamer Aroosa took refuge. The Turkish Minister at Athens has requested his passports. The Grecian Government is rapidly preparing for war.

EUROPEAN SQUADRON IN THE ARCHIPELAGO.

LONDON, Dec. 22.

Despatches from the East say many Russian ships are visiting the Greek ports.

THE GREEK INSURGENTS.

LONDON, Dec. 22.

A letter from Athens dated December 17 says the anti-territorial budget has been submitted to the Chambers, and notwithstanding the declaration of war with Turkey, the military and navy are not increased. The Chamber of Deputies of Syra have petitioned the Admiralty to protest against the war.

Spain.

THE ELECTION.

MADRID, Dec. 22.

The elections for the Cortes in this city passed off with considerable little disturbance or excitement. All the monarchical candidates were elected. The Republicans have carried the cities of Seville and Barcelona.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR CUBA.

It appears on official authority that up to the present moment, 6,000 troops have been sent to reinforce the army in Cuba, and more will soon follow. The government announces that it will never abandon a colony of Spain.

THE UNITED STATES GUNBOAT FOR THE PURCHASE OF CUBA.

It is reported here that the United States have sent a special envoy to Spain to negotiate for the purchase of Cuba, and the arrival is daily expected.

Portugal.

MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

LISBON, Dec. 22.

It seems has taken place in the Cabinet. De Fonseca has resigned, and Count Carvalho has been appointed provisionally the Ministry of Finance, and Marquis Bendiera that of Foreign Affairs.

Great Britain.

THE LONDON PRESS ON PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S MESSAGE.

LONDON, Dec. 22.

No press here is unanimous in condemnation of President Johnson's message, contrarily the opinion is expressed in the United States.

MR. CARDWELL RE-ELECTED.

LONDON, Dec. 22.

Mr. Cardwell was to-day re-elected to Parliament from the city of Oxford.

RAILWAYS.

QUEENSTOWN, Dec. 22.

The steamer City of Antwerp, from New York, arrived yesterday.

DUBLIN, Dec. 22.

Th steamship Peruvian, from New York, arrived yesterday.

Sicily.

MOUNT ETNA QUIET.

VALLETTA, Malta, Dec. 22.

The recent eruption of Mount Etna rapidly subsided, and the volcano has shown little sign of activity for the past two weeks.

France.

CLOSING OF WESTERN RAILWAYS.

PARIS, Dec. 22.

Mourtier, late Minister of Foreign Affairs, is seriously ill.

Foreign Markets.

Bonne quiet; rosins, strong.

HAVRE, Dec. 22.

Cotton closed firm on spot low middling to arrive 1-16c.

INDIANAPOLIS.

End of the Hog Season—Prebbles in Bankruptcy.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 22.

The hog season in this city is about over so far as the operations of packers are concerned. Two houses will suspend operations entirely this week, and indeed are now virtually done, as they are compelled merely to close up the business of killing the prices had again advanced and compelled the packers to go below to-day, where nearly all of the crops grown. There are some supers from Lafayette and Crawfordsville, and a few droves of our best buyers to secure what few lots they can find. The market for hogs is dull and prices nominal.

The weather turned cool quite suddenly this evening. A slight snow fell.

At the fall meeting of the capitalists of the proprietors of the bankrupt Prebble distillery, held this afternoon, it was decided to go into liquidation, and a committee of three was appointed to take the necessary steps accordingly. The following gentlemen were appointed: Hon. Thomas A. Hendricks, Henry Coburn, Lawrence A. Gibbons, Lafayette; Hon. Frank H. Rose, Wabash County; Hon. Isaac Reed, Montgomery County; George W. Julian, Wayne County; Hon. Daniel Mace, Delaware County; John W. Coffingham, Howard County.

Most of the churches of the city have made arrangements for holiday services, or have closing for the holidays.

THE FAR WEST.

A New Stage Line in Connection with the Union Pacific Railway—Twenty Miles More of the Railway Completed.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

OMAHA, Dec. 22.

A daily stage line is being established from a point on the Union Pacific Railway to Lincoln, which will make the time from Omaha to Lincoln 20 hours.

Nearly more miles of the Union Pacific Railway are ready for examination by the Government commissioners.

The Bruno's benefit at the Academy of Music last night was good.

MILWAUKEE.

A Band of Naughty Boys Arrested—Lurling Children.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 22.

The Chief of Police, last night, made a haul of fourteen boys, belonging to the First Ward, who were found congregating in a shanty with their feet in the fire of the wood stove. Complaints were made by the neighborhood led to their arrest.

The boys were taken before Justice Hollister this morning, and fined from $5 to $10 each. The Chicago club to play a game here on Christmas.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

General Cushing at Aspinwall, en route for Bogota.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Steamer Arizona, from Aspinwall 16th, brings $200,000 in specie.

Gen. Caleb Cushing is a passenger. He goes as United States Government, clothed more especially with diplomatic powers, to the United States Minister at Bogota, Colombia.

Gen. Cushing's mission is to settle the Panama Railway claims.

Gen. Cushing arrived at Panama.

It is understood that Gen. Cushing will proceed immediately to Bogota.

WASHINGTON.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.

PATRIOTISM REVIVING FROM THE PRESIDENT'S HOSPITAL DISASTER.

The surgeons in charge of the wounded by the fall of the President's Hospital report to-night that one of the weakest in a dying condition, and one or two others that he can not live another day. Footsteps of the building fell to-day. The Secretary of War has under consideration the question of entering an investigation into the whole subject of erecting those unfortunately buildings, but may decide to await Congressional action. The company furnishing the paint brick of which the rooms were built was formally notified by General Howard, his Adjutant General, was the head of the Freedmen's savings Bank, is now made up of the following General of the Bureau, Superintendent of Freedmen's Schools, Treasurer of the Freedmen's Bank and late Assistant Commissioner of the District, with two or three other citizens. The material has cost the Bureau as much as pressed brick, and the opinion is safe, even adding that whole of the rooms that will be finished could be declared unsafe, as portions of each have fallen and work had to be suspended on the lower of the four buildings to prevent it from falling.

THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

There has been great commotion in the Post Office Department, for four or five days past. Mr. Randall and his assistants have been engaged in all the clerks through with an facts for the purpose of reorganizing the force. Numerous changes have been made. A considerable number of clerks were rejected for removal, but each case was decided on its merits, and the clerks left themselves. It is understood that the President has not interfered in any case, and that in none of the statements showed that all the main allegations were sustained.

APPOINTMENTS AND REMOVALS RATIFIED.

It is charged here that great irregularities in new-paper publications in the Fifth and Sixth Kentucky District, through the operation of a corrupt body of men who received to control the appointments of postmasters, mail-carriers, carriers, etc. and who have demanded and received bonds of persons appointed to these offices as a condition under the Internal Revenue act of last summer, takes place in Louisiana, where collections are made by the Collector, but just been suspended by Supervisor Creecy for alleged irregularity in fraud.

THE BOYS IN BLUE.

A correspondent of the Boys in Blue in this District has taken place lately, and all the members of the band are to be newly uniformed.

THE SUPREME COURT DECISIONS.

Information received here shows that there will be a very decided movement to-day after the meeting of Congress. Protests against the passage are being signed by a large number of citizens in all parts of northern cities.

GENERAL GRANT AND THE PRESIDENT'S BUREAU.

General Grant expresses himself to the effect that there is no reason for a general confession of the President's Bureau after New Years, as the Military Commanders after that date can easily give the freedmen all the aid and protection they require.

AWARDS UPHELD IN PURCHASES & PLANTATION.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has decided that the sale of one thousand acres, off the coast of Georgia, near the mouth of the Savannah River.

CONSPIRACY AT THE CAPITAL.

All the Executive Departments here will be closed on Christmas day, and each one of them will close up at noon of the preceding day.

A COLORED PHYSICIAN.

The City Physician is one of the wards of this city is a colored man. The indignant white citizens have remonstrated against his retention in the office, and their friends are trying to get the Council to appoint a white man for their benefit.

PERSONAL.

General Young, Superintendent for Southern Ohio, has received full instructions concerning the district and much valuable information concerning revenue matters in it so soon from the Commissioner's office here. He will return to-day to enter upon the discharge of his duties.

PROSPERITY'S DAY.

The New England Society of Washington had a long time at their festal dinner this evening, and responses to toasts by Governor Hamlin and others, Senators Pomeroy, Flagler and several other gentlemen, and a song and chorus composed was read from the poet Whittier. The festivities were kept up till a late hour.

[TO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.]

PARIS, Dec. 22, 1868.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—A volume of letters have been received at the Treasury Department from postmasters and others in New Orleans, stating that those who profess to be in favor of the Constitutional amendments are in reality opposed to them, and that the whole scope of dominant sentiment is that the Constitutional amendments are dead letters, and that the people of this State be disposed to the matter of the public appropriations in their statutory material benefit in the way of taxation. This is to be derived from such sources.

LOUISVILLE.

A Warning Circular from the Seymour Vigilance Committee—Tugboat Explosion—Business Failures.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 22.—A circular, purporting to emanate from the Seymour Vigilance Committee, has been published here, and warns all persons that certain parties in and about Seymour have threatened to burn the residences of Democrats, and that if these threats are carried into effect the Democrats will retaliate by burning the residences of Republicans.

The Republicans have carried the office of Sheriff by a majority of 1,000.

The Republicans have carried the office of Sheriff by a majority of 1,000.

A tugboat on the Ohio River, below the city, exploded her boiler this morning, killing one man and severely injuring another.

The steam tug Volante exploded her boiler near Hendersonville, Ky., on the 16th, killing Capt. Daniel Cooper, and slightly injuring John Cooper, son of the captain.

A man named Hardy, mate of the steamer Robert Lee, lying at New Albany, accidentally fell into the river and was drowned.

Messrs. Tucker & Co., extensive tobacco and stock brokers, failed to-day. It is believed they will more than pay all their indebtedness from their unincumbered position.

THE SOUTH.

Order Rescinding the Virginia Stay Laws.

RICHMOND, Dec. 22.—General Schomburg issued an order this evening rescinding that stay law till the 15th of next January, and declaring in effect that from the fifteenth days all the existing interest, the execution of all judgments and decrees will be enforced. In the meantime, if the debtor gives bonds to dispose of his property, if the debtor gives bonds to dispose of his property, if the debtor offers all the assets in his possession, if the debtor will enter the house of an executive agent who

ALEXANDRIA, Va., Dec. 22.—The material train on the Manassas Gap Railroad ran off the track this evening, burning four cars and damaging the track to the extent of $10,000. The passenger train will not leave to-day. The Orange Alexandria Company, whose interest Manassas Gap Railroad, has not been for the Manassas Gap Railroad, will be run by the

The Tribune.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1868.

THE DAILY TRIBUNE is issued every morning (Sundays excepted), and delivered to subscribers in the City for Fifteen Cents per week. Single copies, Two Cents. Subscriptions for the weekly only, and for the Semi-Weekly, may commence at any time. The Weekly Tribune is issued on Saturday, but the trade will get one or two days' start in advance.

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THE WHISKEY FRAUDS, AND TAX.

Mr. Van Wyck from the Congressional Committee on Retrenchment, has completed his report upon whiskey-frauds, and the administration of the Internal Revenue Department. The report says that there can be but little room of appeal left. President Johnson knows these facts. The President had refused to suspend officers reported to him for dishonesty, or to take action at the completion. He did not remove men from office, but not for corruption or inefficiency; he removed them because they did not support his policy on reconstruction! The committee had tried to obtain information from Blackley, but had failed. He refused to testify, although he had incurred an expense of $30,000 while acting as the President's agent, ostensibly in the investigation of frauds. The committee regard the whole mission of Johnson, Blackley, and their associates to be nothing more than to obtain incriminatory testimony for the removal of Commissioner Rollins. The committee report an immense fraud by Gaugers in the manufacturer of distilled spirits sold in bond at the time of the change in the law, and also frauds by distillers, in the matter of the capacity of the stills, by which they produce one-third more whiskey than the estimated capacity of their establishments. Frauds are also committed by compromising prosecutions.

The reduction in the tax is approved. The whole revenue from spirits last year, under the $2 tax, was less than $14,000,000. In July, August and September, this year, the receipts were $9,500,000. During October the tax received was $3,500,000.

The testimony pertaining to cases of **direct frauds**, by persons named, is given, in order to show that officers have lost their places by the President have been guilty, and also to show how the frauds are committed under the present loosely-constructed law.

There can be no doubt that a determined effort will be made directly after the holidays to induce Congress to advance the tax on whiskey from fifty cents to one or two dollars per gallon. There are preparations all over the country having that end in view. The manufacture is brisk, and the speculators are buying largely in the market, that in January the operators will be able to make liberal offers for an act of Congress reducing the tax to two dollars a gallon.

There can be no safety for taxpayers unless the tax is paid to the government. The whiskey tax for several years served only as a cloak for the grossest frauds, whereby a multitude of rich distillers and tunsworn made by dishonest officers and others at the expense of the Treasury. The government got but a fraction of the tax. Under the two dollars per gallon rate of taxation, the highest amount of revenue collected in one year was in 1866-7, when $26,000,000 were received. That same year there were produced 70,000,000 gallons, the tax on which was $140,000,000. The difference between the tax collected and the whole tax was equal to the annual interest on the public debt. But even that amount of annual revenue was not sustained, and for the year 1867-8 it did fall considerably in all parts of the country, to $14,000,000. The annual production, however, did not materially decline, — [illegible] — lawful revenue. The whole system of allowing that sum to be divided among the partners in the fraud. This amounted for last July past $7,000 per day of tax, and the monthly receipts for the year will average over three millions of dollars. Only a small portion of the revenue collected this year from whiskey will exceed $40,000,000. The object of having the tax increased is to restore the old condition of things, and not to pay one dollar more into the Treasury. We hope Congress will put an effectual stop to the reproaches upon this swindling job the moment it is introduced. There is no production upon which a tax can be more legitimately imposed; and the revenue is less liable to be fleeced on whiskey it must be collected on other articles entering into the universal mass of domestic life. Let Congress adhere to the fifty cents tax, and let the hitherto overtaxed industry of the country have a respite.

JOHN BRIGHT ON THE TRENT AFFAIR.

The speech of Hon. John Bright, at the Birmingham banquet to Beverly Johnson, revives some very unpleasant memories of the hopes of Americans, although [illegible] in view.

The capture of Mason and Slidell on board the Trent, by Commodore Wilkes, says Bright, "was an act, I [illegible] that the American Government was no party thereto, and that the moment it received the news it sent a despatch to Minister Adams in London, announcing that it will not act as act which had been done by its orders, and added that it would consider, with the most friendly disposition towards England what was to be done. That despatch from the American Government, says Mr. Bright, "was not only not published, but was concealed from the British Government and Tory press absolutely denied its existence" and the [illegible] for war with the North became louder and bitterer, while the Britons were within a hair's breadth of plunging into war against the Americans. The first thing that was done, adds Mr. Bright, was to [illegible] a fleet of war vessels to Halifax with 10,000 troops. In view of these menaces and desire for hostilities on the part of Great Britain, Mr. Bright declared he believed that "I was convinced—that the American Government would not [illegible] and that the moment it received the news it sent a despatch to Minister Adams in London, announcing that it will not act in an

WINTER SOLSTICE.

Monday the Shortest Day of the Year.

Monday was the Winter Solstice—a day not generally observed, and yet a day to be regarded with thoughtful gratitude. The word Solstice comes from two Latin words—Sol, the sun, and sto, to stand. That is, the sun is in the day when the sun stands; stands as we say of the tide when it neither ebbs nor flows; neither progresses, nor recedes. Any clock or watch-maker can explain to you the reason why the 21st of June (or, in the southern hemisphere, about the same day in December) is

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING.

First Day of the Mrs. Wilkinson-Hilthorpe Libel Suit.

The Tribune Fund for Public Nothing by Mistake a "Discretionary Guess."

Particulars of the Row, Arrest Lock-up, Trial, Fine, and Backargo.

Hilthorpe Swears He Went to See Mrs Wilkinson About a Clothes-Line Difficulty.

Mrs. Hilthorpe Thought She Would Go and See How It was Settled.

The Parties Have a Scrimmage and are "Gobbled" by the Police.

Hilthorpe Insists Upon His Inalienable Right, as a Criminal, to be Put into a Cell.

He Remains There Two Hours, Borrows Two Cigars, and Departs.

He Swears he Has "Sue" Mrs. Wilkinson on Divers Occasions, With Good Intent Each Time.

The Plaintiff Offers to Prove the Words of The Tribune by Sam Bowles' Letter.

Defendant Objects, the Latter Not Being Under Oath.

More Testimony To-Day.

The libel suit of Mrs. Frances E. Wilkinson against THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE Company came up in the Circuit Court before Judge Williams at 11 o'clock yesterday morning. Messrs. Wm. Penn Nixon and Sidney Smith appearing as counsel for defendants, and Messrs. King and Evans for plaintiff. The case created a large amount of interest, and drew to the court a large number of spectators, among whom were a considerable number of ladies interested in the points which would be raised. The defendant's counsel sat at a table, part of which was occupied by the reporters.

THE PLAINTIFF,

however, was the cynosure of all eyes—in fact, she attracted almost as much attention as did Mrs. Bardell when she appeared to the famous charge and counsel were engaged in the case which aroused Pickwick. She sat in a chair flanked on either side by her counsel, and was the most frequent consolation. She watched the progress of the case closely, and watched the witness on the stand with a keenness of observation characteristic of the witness stand. She kept her eyes fixed upon the witness for the most part, and wandering orbs could be fixed upon anything else and soon she would cast them homeward, but they would return to the witness. A period of restless peering at the jury, to the face of Hilthorpe, and then her eyes would take some imaginary observation. She watched the progress of the case closely, and watched the witness. Hilthorpe kept his eyes fixed upon the counsel most of the witness stand. He kept her eyes fixed upon the counsel most of the time, and when wandering orbs could be fixed upon anything else and soon she would cast them homeward, but they would return to the witness. A period of restless peering at the jury, to the face of Hilthorpe, and then her eyes would take some imaginary observation. Her eyes are large, of a gray color, and very expressive. Her nose is a pug, and her mouth, which is full and rosy, is capable of much expression. Her hair is brown, and is worn in puffs on the forehead, and behind it is gathered in a knot. She wears a heavy black silk dress, trimmed with jet, and a jet necklace and bracelets. Her cuffs are of linen, and she wears a linen collar. Her gloves are of kid, and are worn on the hands. She wears a heavy gold watch and chain, and a gold ring with a diamond setting. She has a gold pencil case, and a gold ring with a diamond setting. She has a gold pencil case, and a gold ring with a diamond setting. She has a gold pencil case